

## FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

# Paper... or Plastic?



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*Millions of Californians  
already use e-file. Check  
out free e-file options at  
[www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)*

***The Obvious Choice***



## *With e-file, doing your taxes really can be*

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- **Fast...**prepare and file simple state and federal returns in 30 minutes
- **Free...**no-cost options are available for your state return
- **Easy...**no math
- **Convenient...**have your refund deposited directly into your bank account

## *Here's how e-file works*

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- **Get the tax preparation software**

Go to **[www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)** to locate web-based tax preparation software or purchase software at the store. There are several free options. Most use a question-and-answer format and provide help buttons when you're not sure about how to answer. All provide a completed tax return to print out and keep for your records.

- **Keep your data secure**

Use a pre-assigned customer service number (CSN) to identify yourself. Get your CSN from our Website.

- **Know that your return was filed**

Go back online and get acknowledgement that FTB received your return.

- **Enjoy e-file convenience**

**File online 24 x 7** beginning January 11, 2002.

**Direct deposit** – Have your refund 5-7 banking days after you e-file.

**Electronic funds withdrawal** – You choose the date to pay.



## *Ready to join millions of Californians and e-file?*

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Go to [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov) or ask your tax preparer to e-file for you. See the list of IRS/FTB approved e-file providers on our Website.



***[www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)***

***Services and information at your fingertips***

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### **New for 2002!**

Use your CSN to:

- Look up your account balance and estimated tax payments
- Pay tax electronically
- Request monthly installments



### **Other great services...**

- Get your CSN
- Check refund status
- Use fillable forms
- E-mail tax questions
- Download tax forms and publications

### **Useful information...**

- Contacting FTB
- Understanding bills and notices
- Homeowner and Renter Assistance (HRA)

# Paying Your Taxes – Credit Card Information



Whether you e-file or file by mail, you can use your Discover/NOVUS, MasterCard, or American Express card to pay your personal income taxes (tax return balance due, extension payment, estimated tax payment, or tax due with bill notice).

*There is a convenience fee for this service. This fee is paid directly to Official Payments Corp. based on the amount of your tax payment.*

## Convenience Fee

- 2.5% of the tax amount charged (rounded to the nearest cent)
- Minimum fee: \$1

## Example:

Tax Payment = \$753.56

Convenience Fee = \$18.84

## When will my payment be effective?

Your payment is effective on the date you charge it.

## What if I change my mind?

If you pay your tax liability by credit card and later reverse the credit card transaction, you may be subject to penalties, interest, and other fees imposed by the Franchise Tax Board for nonpayment or late payment of your tax liability.

## How do I use my credit card to pay my income tax bill?

Once you have determined the type of payment and how much you owe, have the following information ready:

- Your Discover/NOVUS, MasterCard, or American Express card
- Credit card number
- Expiration date
- Amount you are paying
- Your and your spouse's SSN
- First 4 letters of last name and the first 4 letters of spouse's last name
- Tax year
- Home phone number
- ZIP Code for address where your monthly credit card bill is sent
- FTB Jurisdiction Code: 1555

Go to the Official Payments Corp. Website or use the toll free number:

- **www.officialpayments.com** Select Payment Center.
- **(800) 2PAY-TAX** or **(800) 272-9829** Follow the recorded instructions.

Official Payments Corp. will tell you the convenience fee before you complete your transaction. You can decide whether to complete the transaction at that time.

**Payment Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_